

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: March 19, 2021

Beeper

The City Manager will be on KNND's Beeper Show on Monday, March 22, 2021 from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Visit with Senator Prozanski

The Mayor, Assistant to the City Manager and City Manager met with Senator Prozanski this morning and discussed activities at the Legislature. They discussed a couple of bills before the legislature and the impact those bills would have on the City. We have scheduled a regular visit with Senator Prozanski and will be setting a similar opportunity with Representative Hayden.

If I Were Mayor Contest

Youth in the community are reminded that the deadline for the If I Were Mayor contest is 5:00 pm on April 16, 2021. 4th & 5th Grade aged youth can submit a poster entry for the possibility of a \$50 or \$25 prize. Middle school aged youth (6th-8th grade) can enter the essay category of the contest for the opportunity to win a \$75 or \$50 prize. High school aged youth are eligible to enter the digital media category for possible prizes of \$100 or \$50. All entries need to be submitted to the City Manager's office by the deadline. The winning entry from each category will be entered into the Oregon Mayors Association statewide contest for up to a \$500 prize. More information about the contest is available on the City's webpage at: <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/citycouncil/page/if-i-were-mayor-contest-2021>. Anyone interested can contact the Mayor or the City Manager's office for more information or advice.

COVID 19 Vaccine Clinic

McCoy's Pharmacy is partnering with the City every Friday to provide a COVID -19 vaccination clinic at Bohemia Park from 10:00 am to noon for residents age 65 or older. The number of doses will be limited so registration is required. To register contact Teresa or Jessica at the Community Center at (541) 942-1185. Please bring your Medicare card or insurance card to the COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Watch for announcements on what ages will be accepted at the future clinics.

New Police Officer

We are pleased to announce that Gabriela Iboa Pierce will start as a full time, entry-level police officer on Friday, April 16th. Her name may be familiar to you. She has been a Communications Specialist for the department since May of 2018. Congratulations, Gabby!

The recruitment for Communications Specialist closed on March 12th and staff is reviewing the applicants at this time. Oral board interviews will be set for early April. Additionally, the recruitment for full time, entry-level/lateral police officers will close on March 26th at 5 pm. Interested applicants should go to the National Testing Network website to test and to submit an application. <https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/>

Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light – Free Workshop – March 29th

To help us recover from the doldrums of the winter and find the light at the end of the COVID tunnel, the City of Cottage Grove is partnering with Downtown Cottage Grove and the State Historic Preservation Office to offer a FREE WORKSHOP to all interested parties on exterior building & retail lighting. This workshop, titled “Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light”, will be taught by Seanette Corkill, the owner of Frontdoor Back, a store design & visual merchandising firm. The workshop will be held at the Cottage Grove Armory, socially-distanced in the Drill Hall, on March 29th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

If you have more questions, or want more information, please contact Amanda Ferguson, City Planner, at (541) 942-3340 or planner@cottagegrove.org.

Weekly Updates #22 Southmayd Family (by Jason Bush)

I was able to get a letter off to Ed McMahon, Vice President of Lane County’s Home Builders Association so that he can in turn send it off to the membership. I’m not sure if it got to him in time for this past Monday, but if not it will go out on the 22nd. We really appreciate Ed’s support on this most important project!

Cameron with the Mighty KNND AM 1400, our hometown radio station, allowed me to give a brief update on the status of our project this morning. He has been very supportive and it is greatly appreciated.

Blue Star Gas, Manager, Michael Hurst, and Service Technician Ewing Jenks met me, the Southmayds, and Brent Taylor of Taylor’s Restaurant Equipment at the building site today to start some preliminary coordination of the LPG system, so that everyone is on the same page. Ewing will be providing an overlay on our plans with this information. Brothers Plumbing and Superior Electric were unable to attend the meeting, so when I receive the LPG plan, I will meet with them to clarify that it all works for them as well.

When taking on a project of this nature, it should be understood that it does not come with a 9-5 job or warrant a paycheck. The gratification is the paycheck and I feel like I have been grossly overpaid. However, you do not get up in the morning, leisurely mulling over and wondering what you’re going to do, whether it’s Monday, hump day, or Gods Day on Sunday. There is simply no time for that, as I have learned that taking on something of this nature is a daunting task that absorbs almost every free moment you think you have, and directs your whole being to a certain extent. Communication and acknowledgement is of the upmost importance, and it would greatly relieve a huge portion of stress and anxiety to get responses from the wonderful companies that I am trying to contact and coordinate materials with. Not hearing back from folks leaves a huge whole in the decision making process. For instance, there are a couple companies, that for some reason have not got back to me after negotiating materials. I have sent 3 or 4 follow up email’s over the course of 4-6 weeks with no response, so I do not where to go from there, other than to start all over for those products.

I know we're all extremely busy with our own careers, family, and everyday life—as crazy as it has become, and I do not wish or expect anyone to overextend themselves; however, I do want to thank each and every one of you again, because this project would not be possible without you.

Lastly, I wanted to include specifically how veteran Jayson Southmayd was able to contact me back in July. Jerry Luke, Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Creswell, prepared the following statement for me to share with you.

Hey Jason,

I had been working for the City of Creswell for the past 3 years when I got a call around 1:30 in the afternoon. The person on the phone was in need of some direction on what to do concerning the circumstances that they were in, they were over their heads and desperate for answers.

The caller identified himself as Jayson, a combat Veteran with a wife and 2 children. He then proceeded to tell of his ordeal with his house disaster and contractor problems that left them on the brink of homelessness. As he told his story I was able to hear between the lines that this was a man, a husband, a father and soldier that was taking one last chance to reach out for answers. By the time Jayson was finished, we were both in tears. After unsuccessfully gathering my composure I assured him that what had happened was no fault of his whatsoever and that He needed to tell his story to our local Building official, Jason Bush. I had not met Jason Bush but heard that he was not your average government official.

I gave Jayson, Jason Bush's cell number and told him that I was glad that he called me, thanked him for his service to our country and that he was not to worry but that it would all work out and that he and his family would be OK. We said our goodbyes and hung up and I prayed for them. It was a few months later that I was in the copy room at work and saw a front page article in our local newspaper. It was reported that Jason Bush, Building Official, was spearheading a total home restoration for Jayson Southmayd and his family. Tears again fell on the newspaper as I read what had happened.

Today I am a part of the support group for the Southmayd family and also our not so average building official Jason Bush.

All of our lives have changed for the better, because we dared to care!

Best Regards,

Jerry D. Luke, Code Enforcement, Cross Connection Specialist, City of Creswell

Thank you Jerry for the touching story of how this all started. Yours in Building Safety, “and” Guarding Our Veterans,

Quote of the Week:

"It doesn't matter where you're going, it's who you have beside you."

~Unknown~